



News from the

City of Carmel

For the Citizens of Carmel

Volume 1 • 2010

Carmel's Strong Fiscal Condition

Carmel Comes in under 2009 Budget

The total cash and investments on hand for all City operating funds at the end of 2009 were more than \$39 million, an increase over last year. The total 2009 ending operating balance of the General Fund was \$9.9 million.

As a result of savings by the City, \$2.2 million of the 2009 budget was left unspent. As early as October 19, 2009, in response to the economic downturn, Mayor Jim Brainard issued an executive order to assure budgets would be reduced and the appropriations would not be spent.

"We work very hard to manage the city's finances

prudently. We approach the budget process much like the private sector in that we perform budget forecasting

"Carmel's residential property taxes have substantially declined since the mid 1990's and are among the lowest of any city in Indiana. Brainard credited the low taxes and large year end balances to strong fiscal management by the City's department heads, which allowed for targeted spending and a focus on key city services for businesses and residents."

Mayor Jim Brainard



Carmel City Hall

ten years out to ensure that we can accomplish our goals and keep our tax rate among the lowest in the state," said Mayor Jim Brainard.

Carmel's residential property taxes have substantially declined since the mid 1990's and are among the lowest of any city in Indiana. Brainard credited the low taxes and large year end balances to strong fiscal management by the City's department heads, which

allowed for targeted spending and a focus on key city services for businesses and residents.

\$3 Million in Additional Income Funds

Carmel has received more than \$3 million in additional County Option Income Tax (COIT) distribution. Each year, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) calculates anticipated COIT

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106th and Keystone roundabout interchange

Keystone Parkway Update

This is the final year of the three-year project to lower the grade of Keystone Parkway under six major roundabout interchanges along the five-mile stretch. The last interchange to be bid was Main Street. The winning bid for that project came in at \$11,746,734, which brought the total construction cost for all six

interchanges to just under American Structurepoint's original estimate for the entire project of \$112 million. A little more than 80 percent of the project costs were paid for with the \$90 million Carmel received from the state when Keystone was relinquished to the City in the fall of 2007.

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www.carmel.in.gov



Mayor Jim Brainard

It is exciting to see businesses growing in our community, especially during this economy. Our investment in redevelopment and public-private partnerships are showing great returns. As many areas of the country are suffering from this

A Message from the Mayor

downturn in the economy, Carmel's redevelopment has continued to create jobs in the construction, engineering and architectural professions. Our community will also benefit from this growth in the future from the jobs that will be created in the retail, restaurant and hotel industries and the commercial offices that will locate to the area.

Our City finances are strong as well. Because of the City's careful spending, we had unspent funds which were de-appropriated by an executive order at the end of 2009. Other good news came

at the beginning of the year as we received \$3 million in additional County Option Income Tax funds, which were placed directly into Carmel's Rainy Day fund.

A number of city projects are making exciting progress and will continue to develop in 2010. Building a road that saves lives, such as Keystone Parkway, is an example of money well spent, with \$90 million of State funds and only about \$20 million of Carmel tax dollars going toward this unique road project. The Palladium construction is on track with an opening date of January

29, 2011. This landmark architectural structure will remain in our community for hundreds of years.

We have so much to be thankful for in the Carmel community as we continue to show positive growth and a strong economy. As always, please feel free to call, e-mail or mail your suggestions, comments or ideas to the City. We want to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

Jim Brainard
Mayor

Keystone Update—continued

116th Street Intersection

The 116th Street interchange opened to traffic on January 18, 2010. Construction on the bridge structure and remaining portions of the roundabout were complete after a short 15-day closure in March. For the most part, local traffic has returned to normal commuting patterns. However, motorists cannot use the north bound ramp from 116th Street to access Keystone Parkway. Also, for safety reasons, pedestrians are currently prohibited from using the interchange as the remainder of the multi-use paths and sidewalk on the bridge are still awaiting final construction. Daily lane closures may occur as crews finish up the roundabout interchange.

Carmel Drive Intersection

Carmel Drive closed on April 1st at Keystone Parkway for construction of the roundabout interchange. After 30 days, Carmel Drive traffic can access Keystone only in a right in /right out configuration. This will continue for approximately 120 days before the interchange opens. Four lanes of traffic on Keystone Parkway will be maintained during construction of the Carmel Drive interchange.

Main Street Intersection

Construction of the roundabout interchange at Main Street and Keystone Parkway will start on or after April 15th, at which point Main Street will close at Keystone Parkway. Then, on or after May 1st, there will

be a full closure of Keystone Parkway at Main Street for 45 days. The construction schedule will be very similar to the construction of the 136th Street interchange with the interchange opening to traffic prior to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. School officials and transportation administrators were consulted regarding the construction schedule and road closures

and they indicated that it would be less disruptive for the total closure to occur at the end of the school year.

136th Street Intersection

The 136th Street interchange opened to traffic on August 5, 2009.

106th Street and 126th Street Intersections

The 106th and 126th Street interchanges opened to traffic on April 18, 2009.

We appreciate the patience of the Carmel community and motorists traveling in the area as we complete this vital project. The response to the new roundabout interchanges has been overwhelmingly positive. There are many reasons why people love the roundabouts, among them are the increased safety, decreased noise, accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists and environmental benefits of fewer emissions and fuel savings.

Additional information and detour maps can be found at www.CarmelLink.org.

Fiscal Condition –continued

distributions. When more tax revenue is collected than estimated, these additional funds are then distributed.

Hamilton County's portion of additional COIT, more than \$13 million, was second only to Marion County's distribution. The

amount Carmel received was the highest of any city or town in Hamilton County. The additional COIT was deposited in Carmel's Rainy Day fund at the end of January. This brings the total in the Rainy Day fund to more than \$7 million.

"This is good news for Carmel citizens. Our administration has worked carefully with the City Council over many years to conservatively manage our budgets and our spending. As a result, Carmel's 2009 ending operating balance for

all funds was more than \$39 million, one million dollars more than we started with in 2009. Carmel is in a fortunate position, especially given what the recession has done to finances in other cities," said Mayor Jim Brainard.

Community Benefits from New Water Main

Carmel Utilities is building a new water plant on the southeast corner of Gray Road and 106th Street. This facility is a registered LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building and will incorporate many energy efficient features and technologies. A new 36-inch water main will carry water from this facility to serve new growth in the western part of Carmel and the former Indianapolis Water Company (IWC) customers located in Clay Township.

In 2006, after three years of negotiations, Carmel Utilities reached an agreement with IWC to purchase their customers in Clay Township. Under the agreement, IWC customers in western Carmel are to be converted to Carmel water by 2012. These customers have been billed and serviced by Carmel Utilities while their rates have remained the same since the

purchase. Had these customers stayed with IWC, their rates would be approximately 45 percent higher than their current Carmel Utilities rates. IWC also has another rate increase pending.

Once the conversions are complete, these customers will receive softened water which is done at the Carmel water treatment plant. Carmel Utilities also draws its water from aquifer sources while IWC uses surface water.

Carmel Utilities has already run the new 36-inch water main from the plant, along 106th Street to approximately Westfield Boulevard. The installation of the water main provided the opportunity to construct a multi-use path along the route where the pipe had been buried next to 106th Street east of Keystone. The installation of the 36-inch water main will continue north from 106th Street under Westfield Boulevard to the Central Park entrance. The pipe is being installed under the road to preserve the trees in the area and to keep costs low.



Crews work to install a water main.

Due to the nearby Keystone Parkway construction project, the installation of the water main under Westfield Boulevard has been postponed, because it requires closure on a section-by-section basis of Westfield Boulevard between 106th and the entrance to Central Park.

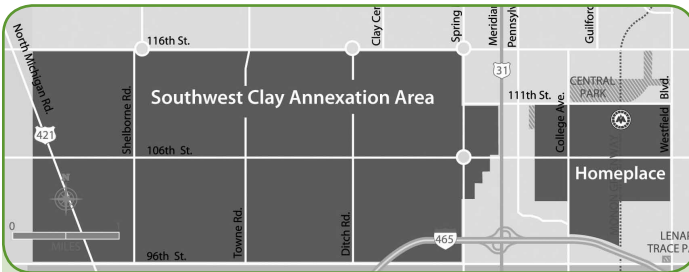
Email notifications will be sent to area residents advising them of the construction progress.

If you would like to be added to this distribution list, please send an email to smaki@carmel.in.gov and ask to be added to the Westfield Boulevard list. Updated information on the construction progress will be sent as it becomes available.

Southwest Clay Fully Incorporated this Year

In June of 2007, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled in favor of Carmel allowing the incorporation of Southwest Clay Township. Southwest Clay will become part of the city on July 27, 2010. In its annexation agreement with Southwest Clay, the City of Carmel agreed to make certain improvements to the area, some of which have already occurred.

Carmel believes this is in the best interest of Carmel taxpayers. Providing police, road services and 911 services from county government in Noblesville is not an efficient process. It only makes fiscal sense that Southwest Clay should receive their police and road services from Carmel and not Hamilton County working out of Noblesville.



Southwest Clay will be incorporated into the city on July 27, 2010.

New Police Officers



From left Officer Edward Gauthier, Officer Richard Thomas (with son), Officer Crystal Hughes (with son), Merit Board Members Winston Long, Alana Shane, Joe O'Connell

Carmel Courts to Use New Odyssey System

The Carmel City Court is joining the Hamilton County trial courts in using the Indiana Supreme Court's electronic case management system called "Odyssey."

The Carmel City Court is the third city court to use the statewide system. By using this new program, all court systems will be connected to each other, law enforcement, state agencies, and others who need and use court information. Funding for this system was provided by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

The new Odyssey system will increase safety and save time. Because this is so much faster than writing tickets by hand, officer and motorist exposure to traffic hazards is lessened. Also, an electronic citation is created with



Indiana Supreme Court Justice Frank Sullivan, Jr. (right) and Indiana State Trooper Sturgeon (left) demonstrate how the new odyssey system will print out tickets.

Odyssey, so the data does not have to be reentered by hand when the ticket is filed.

Court case information in Odyssey is available to the public over the internet at no cost. This new system is also projected to save money. Carmel City Court Judge Brian Poindexter estimates that this system will save taxpayers a minimum of \$12,000 a year because of the reduction of duplicative data entry.

Police Memorial Service

The Carmel Police Department is holding its annual Police Memorial Service on Wednesday, May 5th at the Gazebo at Civic Square. Please come and join in remembering those who have fallen in the line of duty.

**Wednesday, May 5
Gazebo at Civic Square**

**The ceremony begins
at 7 p.m.**

**For more information,
please call Ann Gallagher
at 571-2720.**

www.carmelpd.com

Residents Appreciate Carmel Street Department's Efforts

It is our goal at the City of Carmel to provide safe streets in a timely and efficient manner by controlling the snow and ice on our roadways before and during winter storms. The patience and understanding of our citizens is appreciated during the removal of snow, particularly when it occurs at an inopportune time such as a weekday rush hour. It can be difficult for the plows and salt trucks to make their way around the city in such high volume traffic.

This past winter season had several snowfalls and the street department was quick to respond to clearing the roads of Carmel in a timely

manner. Residents noticed their hard work and have been very complimentary.

See the letter from the Geerinch's of Carmel to Street Commissioner Dave Huffman.

Dave,

Our sincere "Thank you" for your great service during Saturday morning's snow storm.

My wife recently had major cancer surgery and needed to get to an appointment. Our cul-de-sac had not yet been plowed since it is not heavily traveled, and we could not get through.

I called the Street Department for assistance. In a half-hour, you arrived and personally plowed our street open.

Dave, your personal concern and extra effort are examples of why Carmel is such an outstanding city.

We really appreciate you.

Sincerely,

Paul & Marjorie Geerinch
Carmel, IN



Carmel Firefighters work to put out a controlled fire during a training session.

Carmel Fire Department Funds Programs through Grants

Carmel received a \$10,000 grant for being among the ten most "fire smart" communities in the nation. The Carmel Fire Department (CFD) placed first in its city size category (medium-sized fire department serving 10,001-100,000 residents) and was the first place winner in the nation overall for the Liberty Mutual Insurance 2009 Be Fire Smart Pledge Program.

The purpose of the grant program is to help educate residents about fire and health hazards. The CFD will put the grant toward the purchase of a "hazard house" to teach fire safety to schoolchildren and community groups. Thanks to everyone who participated by completing the online Fire Safety Quizzes and crediting our department.

Also, The Fireman's Fund Insurance Company granted the CFD with \$5,330 for smoke detectors through the Fireman's Fund Heritage program. This program focuses on providing funds for needed equipment, firefighter training and community education programs.



Main Street sign in Carmel.

131st Street is Now Main Street

This roadway was renamed Main Street in order to maintain consistency across Carmel. This change should help avoid confusion similar to what many of us have experienced when traveling along 86th/82nd Street in Indianapolis.

The first of three letters notifying residents affected by this name change was mailed in September 2009. As a result of that letter, inconsistencies in the address numbering along a section of 131st Street west of Meridian were discovered.

Renumbering these addresses was important

in order to follow the sequencing in the area. This will help ensure that police, fire, ambulance, mail, package deliveries, visitors and friends are able to locate homes and businesses easily and avoid the confusion of out of sequence addressing. It will also eliminate confusion when an address is typed into computer mapping and GPS systems.

The City appreciates the cooperation of residents and businesses along Main Street throughout this process.

131st Street was renamed Main Street from east to west for those with Carmel mailing addresses. Street signs were switched in March reflecting that change.

In the past, sections of this roadway have been referred to as Main Street, while in other areas it has been called 131st Street.

Mayor presents Good Samaritan Awards



Cole, Kelly, Mark, Jack and Laura Rodman join Mayor Jim Brainard and Officer T. Robbins for a group photo after the award presentation (pictured left to right).

Mayor Jim Brainard recognized Jack Rodman, Fred Robbins and Toni Sheehy with Good Samaritan Awards. The Good Samaritan Award is presented to individuals who have shown exceptional courage, kindness and unselfish character by their acts of heroism in our community.

Jack Rodman, an eleven year old from Noblesville, was recognized for his brave reaction to his father, Mark, passing out at the wheel of the car while driving. Jack grasped the wheel, steered the car to the side of the road and then finally removed the key to stop the car. Thankfully, no one was injured. Jack was upset but remained calm during the entire ordeal, showing maturity beyond his years.

Zionsville resident Fred Robbins and Carmel resident Toni Sheehy were



Mayor Jim Brainard awards Fred Robbins a Good Samaritan award at the Holiday on the Square ceremony.

awarded Good Samaritan Awards for their heroic pond rescue. Lorraine Holland's car veered off the road, hit a tree and went into a retention pond. Toni saw the car go into the retention pond and flagged Fred down for help. A former lifeguard in his youth, Fred jumped into the water and used a softball-sized rock that Toni had handed him from the shore, to break a window of the car. Lorraine floated to the surface and Fred swam her back to shore. Emergency crews arrived and took her by ambulance to the hospital. Lorraine is doing fine, thanks to the courageous and timely actions of Fred and Toni.



Memorial Day Ceremony

The City of Carmel will be holding a Memorial Day Ceremony to remember those who have served our country. The ceremony will include remarks from Mayor Jim Brainard and a keynote speaker. Teams of students from Carmel Clay Schools will participate in a flag raising ceremony and place flowers at the Memorial to commemorate all military

**City of Carmel's
Memorial Day Celebration
Friday, May 28th
9 a.m.
Carmel Clay Veterans
Memorial Plaza located in
City Center**

veterans. Patriotic music will be provided and the public is welcome to attend. More information can be found on the City's website at www.Carmel.in.gov.

Remember a Veteran



Personalized Brick Pavers at Veterans Memorial Plaza

Recognize a friend or loved one with an engraved paver to be placed at the Veterans Memorial Plaza

Visit the city's website at www.carmel.in.gov to download an order form or for more information.



Mayor Jim Brainard shakes hands with Captain Kyle Walton as he presents him with the Range Line Pioneer award.

Jim Brainard presented two individuals with Range Line Pioneer Awards. The Range Line Pioneer award was established in 1992 and is the highest honor the Mayor can bestow.

Mayor Brainard presented Dr. Barbara Underwood with her Range Line Pioneer Award, at her retirement

Underwood and Walton Receive Range Line Pioneer Awards

party, for her years of service in the community as the Superintendent of Carmel Clay Schools.

She served as Superintendent for eight years, and is active in various professional organizations. Under Dr. Underwood's guidance, Carmel Clay Schools continued to achieve high standards. She has been a great partner with the schools in order to continue this high level of achievement in education.

The Mayor also presented a Range Line Pioneer Award to U.S. Army Special Forces Captain Kyle Walton for his act of heroism while leading

his military unit through countless combat operations overseas.

Captain Walton is a Carmel native and a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Captain Walton has served four tours of duty in Afghanistan and one tour of duty in Iraq. He was deployed in early January for his sixth tour in the combat zone. Captain Walton is the recipient of the Silverstar (the Army's third highest award for combat valor) and three Bronze Star medals in addition to numerous other military awards and decorations.



Barbara Underwood is presented with a Range Line Pioneer award from Mayor Jim Brainard at her retirement party.

News from our Sister City Kawachinagano, Japan



Students perform on stage at the Lovely Hall Music School in Kawachinagano, Japan.

Hello, citizens of Carmel!

Let me say more about "Lovely Hall," the Municipal Culture Hall in Kawachinagano, Carmel's sister city in Japan.

We conduct a "Lovely Hall Music School" once a week at the hall. Currently, there are 52 people attending the school, ranging from 3rd graders to university students, who mainly practice singing and dancing. They also take part in producing musical shows every other year. So far they have done "Alice in the Wonderland" and "The Wizard of Oz." In 2008 they performed an original musical, "Our Treasure Island," which was a great success.

I think the United States is the home of musicals. Recently, musical shows have also been very popular here in Japan. My dream is to collaborate in an original musical performance with Carmel and Kawachinagano working together. Musicals are loved all over the world. I'm sure we will be able to create a superb show. What do you think about this idea?

City Council Meeting Dates

The City Council meets on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall

May 3 & 17

June 7 & 21

Watch City Council meetings live on Channel 16. Channel 99 replays City Council meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Board of Public Works & Safety Meetings

The Board of Public Works meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall

May 5 & 19

June 2 & 16

Plan Commission

The Plan Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall

May 18

June 15

Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Caucus Room

April 26

May 24

June 28

Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Board

Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Board
All meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Banquet Room A at The Monon Center, 1235 Central Park Drive East, Carmel, IN 46032.

April 27

May 11 & 25

June 8 & 22

News from the City of Carmel

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Carmel, Indiana 46032

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www.carmel.in.gov

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8 - 5 p.m.

City Court Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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This newsletter is a publication of the City of Carmel. Please send your comments, suggestions and news items to City Hall.

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Census 2010

In 2010 the U.S. Census Bureau will count every person living in our nation. It's vital that you complete your census form because the results help ensure our community will get its share of funding for essential services such as new roads, hospitals, child care and senior centers, schools and more.

The Census asks just 10 simple questions and your answers are confidential. Your information is protected by law and cannot be shared with anyone for any reason, including police or other federal agencies.

Fill it out and be counted!
For more information visit
www.2010.census.gov



Follow the City of Carmel and Carmel Utilities on Facebook.